

REMARKS

Claims 1, 2, 6-11, 14-19 and 21-26 are pending in the application. No claims have been amended, canceled or added.

Applicants believe that this response addresses the Examiner's rejection and that any changes do not introduce new matter into the specification, limit the scope of the claims or result in any prosecution history estoppel.

Double Patenting

The Examiner rejected claims 1-6, 14-19 and 21-22 under the judicially created doctrine of obvious type double patenting as being unpatentable over claims 1-9 of U.S. Patent Number 6,731,807. Claims 2 and 7-11 are rejected based upon the rejected base claims. Applicants respectfully note that a terminal disclaimer is submitted herewith to overcome the double patenting rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 23-26 have been allowed.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully asserted that all of the claims pending in this patent application are in condition for allowance.

The required fee for a two month extension of time is enclosed. No additional fees are required for additional claims. Should it be determined that an additional fee is due under 37 CFR §§1.16 or 1.17, or any excess fee has been received, please charge that fee or credit the amount of overcharge to deposit account #02-2666.

If the Examiner has any questions, he is invited to contact the undersigned at (323) 654-8218. Reconsideration of this patent application and early allowance of all the claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

BLAKELY, SOKOLOFF, TAYLOR, & ZAFMAN LLP

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By


Farzad E. Amini, Reg. No. 42,261

12400 Wilshire Boulevard
Seventh Floor
Los Angeles, California 90025
(310) 207-3800

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail with sufficient postage in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, Post Office Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on September 21, 2005.


Margaux Rodriguez September 21, 2005